

**PATENT****Attorney Docket No.: 2727CON(203-2809PCTUSCON)**
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Dycus et al.

Examiner: Michael F. Peffley

Serial No.: 10/848,773

Group: Art Unit 3739

Filed: May 19, 2004

Dated: November 29, 2006

For: VESSEL SEALER AND DIVIDER

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that copies of the U.S. references cited are not required since this application was filed after June 30, 2003 pursuant to 51 C.F.R. 1.98. Copies of foreign references and publications cited are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on date below.

Dated: November 29, 2006

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- [] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- [] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- [] Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.
- [] To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- [] Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- [] Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).
 - [] Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
 - [] Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- [] Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- [X] Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

[X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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ECM/gm



without references

Sheet 1 of 3

Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		Docket Number (Optional) 2727CON(203-2809PCTUSCON)	Application Number 10/848,773			
		Applicant Dycus et al.				
		Filing Date May 19, 2004	Group Art Number 3739			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	4,041,952	8/16/77	MORRISON, JR. ET AL.			
	4,128,099	12/5/78	BAUER			
	5,084,057	1/28/92	GREEN ET AL.			
	5,196,009	3/23/93	KIRWAN, JR.			
	5,217,460	6/8/93	KNOEPFLER			
	5,368,600	11/29/94	FAILLA ET AL.			
	5,396,900	3/14/95	SLATER ET AL.			
	5,542,945	8/6/96	FRITZSCH			
	5,611,798	3/18/97	EGGERS			
	5,665,100	9/9/97	YOON			
	5,772,655	6/30/98	BAUER ET AL.			
	5,772,670	6/30/98	BROSA			
	5,807,393	9/15/98	WILLIAMSOM, IV ET AL.			
	5,860,976	1/19/99	BILLINGS ET AL.			
	5,911,719	6/15/99	EGGERS			
	5,925,043	7/20/99	KUMAR ET AL.			
	5,957,923	9/28/99	HAHNEN ET AL.			
	6,059,782	5/9/00	NOVAK ET AL.			
	6,123,701	9/26/00	NEZHAT			
	6,217,602	4/17/01	REDMON			
	6,443,952	9/3/02	MULIER ET AL.			
	6,464,701	10/15/02	HOOVEN ET AL.			
	6,656,177	12/2/03	TRUCKAI ET AL.			
	6,669,696	12/30/03	BACHER ET AL.			
	6,770,072	8/3/04	TRUCKAI ET AL.			
Examiner				Date Considered		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.						

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				without references		
Examiner Initial	Publication Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	2003/0216732 A1	11/20/03	TRUCKAI ET AL.			
	2004/0030330 A1	2/12/04	BRASSELL ET AL.			
	2004/0030332 A1	2/12/04	KNOWLTON ET AL.			
	2006/0064085 A1	3/23/06	SCHECHTER ET AL.			
	2006/0129146 A1	6/15/06	DYCUS ET AL.			
	2006/0161150 A1	7/20/06	KEPPEL			
	2006/0167450 A1	7/27/06	JOHNSON ET AL.			
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	2006/0173452 A1	8/3/06	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	2006/0189980 A1	8/24/06	JOHNSON ET AL.			
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	2006/0190035 A1	8/24/06	HUSHKA ET AL.			
	2006/0217709 A1	9/28/06	COUTURE ET AL.			
	2006/0224158 A1	10/5/06	ODOM ET AL.			

OTHER DOCUMENTS		with copies
	Int'l Search Report EP 05016399	
	dated January 5, 2006	
	Int'l Search Report EP 06005185.1	
	dated April 18, 2006	
	Int'l Search Report EP 06008779.8	
	dated June 13, 2006	
	Int'l Search Report EP 1683496	
	dated June 13, 2006	

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	